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## PATENT APPLICATION

### IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q66483

Naoyoshi CHINO

Appln. No.: 09/972,961

Group Art Unit: 2861

Confirmation No.: 5751

Examiner: Hai Chi PHAM

Filed: October 10, 2001

For: TRANSFER APPARATUS

### STATUS INQUIRY

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The undersigned respectfully requests to be advised of the status of the above-identified application.

In this regard, Examiner Pham called on June 17, 2005 and indicated that there was an Office Action dated in June 2004 which was mailed but returned to the Patent Office by the Post Office. Moreover, the undersigned confirms that no Office Action was received in the timeframe of June 2004 and that the Examiner's phone call is the first that the undersigned became aware of an Office Action being mailed in the present application.

Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request that the Patent Office re-send the Office Action originally sent in June 2004 and restart the response due date. All correspondence in the present application should be sent to the following address:

STATUS INQUIRY  
U.S. Patent Application No. 09/972,961

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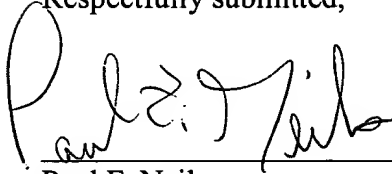
WASHINGTON OFFICE

**23373**

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: June 17, 1005

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul F. Neils", is written over a horizontal line.

Paul F. Neils  
Registration No. 33,102

Attorney Docket No.: Q66483